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The situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Letter dated 25 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 25 November 2018, Russian Federation military vessels fired on and forcefully captured three Ukrainian navy vessels near the Kerch Strait, thus committing an act of aggression against Ukraine as set out in in article 3 (d) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 3314 (XXIX), entitled "Definition of Aggression", which is yet another demonstration of the belligerent behaviour of the Russian Federation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

This act constitutes a clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and is a threat to international peace and security.

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on Russia's armed provocation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 67, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 25 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on Russia's armed provocation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov

25 November 2018

Provocative actions of the Russian Federation in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov have transgressed all boundaries and become aggressive.

Ships of the Russian Federation, in violation of freedom of navigation, unlawfully used force against the ships of the Ukrainian Naval Forces.

We consider such aggressive actions as a violation of the norms of the Charter of the United Nations and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Ukraine will take all appropriate measures to ensure diplomatic and legal response.

We will also inform our partners about the aggressive acts of the Russian Federation in the Sea of Azov. Such actions pose a threat to the security of all States of the Black Sea region and thus demand a clear reaction from the international community.